

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 18, 1997

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 97-18

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES  
PROGRAM MANAGERS  
ALL COUNTY CAL LEARN COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY AFDC PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☒ State Law Change  
☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change  
☐ Court Order  
☐ Clarification Requested by  
One or More Counties  
☐ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: MINOR PARENT REQUIREMENT (TEEN PREGNANCY DISINCENTIVE)  
FOR FAMILY MAINTENANCE SERVICES

REFERENCE: ACIN I-57-96, ACL 96-65, ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 908, CHAPTER 307,  
STATUTES OF 1995

The purpose of this letter is to transmit instructions necessary to implement the Child Welfare Services (CWS) provisions of AB 908 (Chapter 307, Statutes of 1995). AB 908 also contains provisions specific to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The Welfare Programs Division issued a separate All County Letter (ACL #96-65) with AFDC implementation instructions.

**OVERVIEW**

AB 908 added a new Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 11254, which creates a new condition of eligibility for aid for certain minors under 18 years of age. It also added a new WIC section 16504(b) requiring investigation by a CWS Social Worker within 20 calendar days as part of the aid determination process for minor parents who allege that living with their parent(s), legal guardian, or other adult relative would place them and/or their child(ren) at risk of abuse. WIC section 16506(d) requires the provision of family maintenance services to minor parents who are found to meet an exemption and are living on their own while receiving aid.

Effective May 1, 1997, a pregnant or parenting minor, who has never been married and applies for AFDC, must meet a new condition of eligibility. The minor must live with his/her senior parent(s) [the minor's parent(s)], legal guardian, other adult relative, or in an adult-supervised supportive living arrangement. The minor may be exempt from this requirement only if he/she meets one of the following conditions:

- The minor has no parent(s), or legal guardian, who is living, whose whereabouts are known, or who will allow the minor to live in his/her home; or
- A Child Protective Services (CPS) social worker determines that the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent or his/her dependent child would be jeopardized if the minor and the minor's child lived in the home with the senior parent(s), legal guardian, or other adult relative; or
- The minor has lived apart from the senior parent(s) or legal guardian for a period of at least twelve months prior to the birth of the dependent child or the application for aid; or
- The minor is legally emancipated.

### **AB 908 WILL RESULT IN TWO CATEGORIES OF CWS REFERRALS**

1. Effective May 1, 1997, as a result of these statutory changes, any minor parent who indicates as part of the AFDC application process that living with their parent(s), legal guardian, or other adult relative would place them or their child(ren) at risk of abuse, will be referred to CWS for an investigation of that allegation. CWS will complete an in-person investigation and report the results to the AFDC eligibility worker within 20 calendar days from the receipt of the referral.
2. Effective June 1, 1997, any minor parent who is found to meet any of the exemptions described in WIC section 11254 will be referred to CWS for assessment and services. CWS will have 30 calendar days from receipt of the referral to complete an in-person safety assessment of the minor parent's living situation, the minor's ability to live independently, and services required to ensure that health and safety of the minor parent and his/her child(ren). All minors determined capable of living independently will be provided Minor Parent Services (MPS).

### **MINOR PARENT SERVICES**

MPS are a home visiting model of supportive services provided to minor parents and their child(ren), to assist them in creating a healthy and safe environment. The goal of MPS is to maintain a safe and healthy environment for the minor parent family, increase the minor parent's self sufficiency, and improve the minor parent's ability to parent effectively. Services are provided primarily in the home and include appropriate face-to-face in-home visits with the minor parent and child, education about issues such as infant health and development, nutrition, parenting techniques and other relevant life skills. Other services may be provided directly or through referrals to address the specific safety needs of the minor parent and his/her child(ren).

## **MINOR PARENTS CURRENTLY RECEIVING AFDC**

Counties will not be required to apply this new condition of eligibility (AFDC minor parent requirement) on May 1, 1997 to minor parents currently receiving aid. Counties should begin to apply the AFDC minor parent requirement to the existing caseload no later than the next redetermination. However, counties may postpone applying the requirement to those cases that would normally be scheduled for a redetermination in May or June 1997. CWS should expect to receive referrals of minor parents who have an existing AFDC case beginning July 1, 1997.

## **IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### ***(1) Referral Based On Risk***

Effective May 1, 1997, all pregnant and parenting minor applicants for AFDC will be required to complete the CA 25 (Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent) at the time of application. The CA 25 (a copy is attached) has been developed for CWDs to use to:

- Document the minor parent's current living arrangement;
- Refer the minor parent to CWS when he/she alleges abuse or risk of abuse;
- Refer the minor parent to CWS for MPS if the minor parent meets an exemption and lives apart from his/her parent(s), legal guardian or other adult relative.

When a minor parent alleges a health or safety factor prevents his/her living with the senior parent(s) or legal guardian, the eligibility worker will send the CA 25 to CWS. A CWS social worker must conduct an in-person investigation of the minor parent, including his/her children, and the senior parent(s) or legal guardian. The CWS social worker is responsible for completing the in-person investigation and returning the CA 25 to the eligibility worker indicating the results of the investigation within 20 calendar days from receipt of the referral. Please note: when the CA 25 indicates an immediate need, CWS must complete the in-person investigation immediately.

When the CWS social worker determines there is no risk if the minor parent and his/her child(ren) return to the senior parent's or legal guardian's home, the social worker notifies the AFDC eligibility worker of the results of the investigation by returning the CA 25 to the eligibility worker indicating that the senior parent's or legal guardian's home is safe. The minor parent will be denied AFDC based on this exemption, unless he/she moves into an acceptable adult supervised living arrangement or meets other exemption criteria.

When the CWS social worker determines there is risk of abuse or neglect if the minor parent and his/her child(ren) were to return home, the CWS social worker must determine whether the senior parent's or legal guardian's home would be safe with the provision of other

CWS services or if the minor parent or his/her child(ren) needs other CWS services (i.e.; foster care placement). The social worker notifies the AFDC eligibility worker of the results of the investigation by returning the CA 25 to the eligibility worker indicating that the senior parent's or legal guardian's home is not safe and that CWS services will be provided, as appropriate.

Counties should note that whenever a minor parent referral is received from AFDC which indicates that the minor parent and/or child(ren) are at imminent risk of abuse or neglect, intake, assessment and case planning activities should occur as required by MPP sections 31-100 through 31-235.

### ***(2) Provision of Minor Parent Services***

When an eligibility worker determines that a minor parent meets one of the exemptions to the minor parent rule and is not living with his/her parent(s), legal guardian, or other adult relative, the eligibility worker will refer the minor parent to CWS via the CA 25 for MPS.

Within thirty calendar days of receiving a referral from AFDC an assessment of the minor parent and his/her child(ren) must be completed to determine if the minor parent and his/her child(ren) are capable of living independently. The CWS social worker, other county worker, or service provider must develop a safety plan for the minor parent and his/her child(ren) and must make in-home visits with the minor parent and his/her child(ren) to assess the health and safety of the minor parent's child(ren). For all minor parents living without adult supervision, the safety plan must include the provision of MPS. These services must be provided until the minor parent reaches the age of 18 years, is discontinued from or denied AFDC, marries, or is legally emancipated.

If a minor parent refuses to accept MPS, the CWS social worker shall consider other options to meet the safety needs of the minor parent. If for any reason the eligibility worker denies or discontinues the minor parent's AFDC case, the eligibility worker must notify CWS. CWS shall determine whether the minor parent needs continuing services and provide CWS services as appropriate. In the case that another service provider is providing MPS, then that service provider must complete an assessment when a minor parent refuses services to determine if it is appropriate to make a referral to CPS.

### ***(3) County Options for Providing Minor Parent Services***

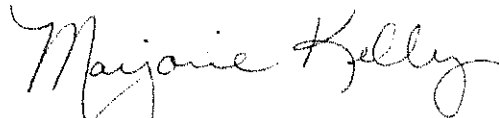
Counties have the option to either provide MPS directly to the minor parent and his/her child(ren) by CWS social workers, or enter into an agreement with another county agency or non-profit service provider to provide the services.

When a county chooses to enter into an agreement with another county agency or non-profit agency to deliver MPS, the agreement or contract must, at a minimum, specify the services to be provided and a process for reporting to the county on progress of families served.

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The draft regulations are currently being processed on an emergency basis. These draft regulations will be sent to you under separate cover. Counties will receive the final regulations when they become available. CDSS is committed to continuing to work with counties to achieve implementation of AB 908/teen pregnancy disincentive by developing appropriate support and training. We will work with the AB 908 task force to resolve the remaining implementation issues. If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information, please contact Ms. Deborah Wender, Child Welfare Services Bureau at (916) 445-5829.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie Kelly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

MARJORIE KELLY  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments

## SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF FACTS - MINOR PARENT

**The Minor Parent Rule says you can get cash aid if you are under 18 years of age and have never been married and are pregnant or have a dependent child in your care, only if you and your child live with your parent(s), legal guardian, other adult relative, in a group home, or in a maternity home. Your cash aid will be paid to that adult.**

**The Minor Parent Rule may not apply if you meet one of the following conditions:**

- 1) A child protective services worker determines that it's not physically or emotionally safe for you to live with your parent(s) or legal guardian; or
- 2) Your parent(s) or legal guardian is dead; or you don't know where they live; or they won't let you live with them; or
- 3) You have lived apart from your parent(s) or legal guardian for at least one year before the birth of your child or application for cash aid; or
- 4) You are legally emancipated.

**If you are living apart from your parent(s) or legal guardian, and one of the above-listed conditions apply, your case will be referred for minor parent family maintenance services.**

**Complete the questions below. If you need more space, attach another sheet of paper. If you need help, ask your worker.**

① YOUR NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)		DATE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	<b>COUNTY USE ONLY</b>										
CURRENT ADDRESS (NUMBER, STREET NAME, AVENUE, BLVD, ETC.) APT. MO			PHONE NUMBER	CASE NAME										
CITY		ZIP CODE	MESSAGE PHONE NUMBER	CASE NUMBER										
② DO YOU LIVE WITH YOUR PARENT(S), OR A LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR IN A GROUP OR MATERNITY HOME? <input type="checkbox"/> YES If "YES", list who and relationship and sign and date item ⑦ in the Certification Section. <input type="checkbox"/> NO If "NO", explain why not and for how long and complete items ③ through ⑦.				EW NAME AND NUMBER										
				PHONE NUMBER										
③ NAME OF YOUR MOTHER (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST) _____ CONTACT PHONE NUMBER _____ CURRENT ADDRESS _____ NUMBER, STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ ④ NAME OF YOUR FATHER (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST) _____ CONTACT PHONE NUMBER _____ CURRENT ADDRESS _____ NUMBER, STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ ⑤ DOES THE OTHER PARENT OF YOUR CHILD(REN) OR UNBORN LIVE WITH YOU? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO OTHER PARENT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ PHONE NUMBER _____ CURRENT ADDRESS _____ NUMBER, STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ ⑥ LIST EVERYONE LIVING IN THE HOME. IF YOU ARE PREGNANT, LIST CHILD AS "UNBORN" AND GIVE DUE DATE. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">NAME OF YOUR CHILD</td> <td style="width: 20%;">DATE OF BIRTH OR DUE DATE</td> <td style="width: 50%;">SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAME</td> <td>RELATIONSHIP TO YOU</td> <td>NAME</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAME</td> <td>RELATIONSHIP TO YOU</td> <td>NAME</td> </tr> </table>				NAME OF YOUR CHILD	DATE OF BIRTH OR DUE DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO YOU	NAME	NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO YOU	NAME	REFERRAL FOR <input type="checkbox"/> RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SAFETY ISSUE <input type="checkbox"/> AFDC IMMEDIATE NEED <input type="checkbox"/> MINOR PARENT MEETS THE FOLLOWING EXEMPTION(S): <input type="checkbox"/> No living parent(s)/legal guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Parent(s)/legal guardian's whereabouts unknown. <input type="checkbox"/> Has lived on own for 12 mo. <input type="checkbox"/> Emancipated <input type="checkbox"/> Not allowed to live at home	
				NAME OF YOUR CHILD	DATE OF BIRTH OR DUE DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER								
				NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO YOU	NAME								
				NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO YOU	NAME								
				REFERRED TO CWS ON _____										
COMMENTS:														
CWS: DOES SAFETY ISSUE EXIST? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO RETURNED TO EW ON _____ COMMENTS:														
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>														
• I understand to get cash aid I must meet the minor parent rule or an exemption to the rule. • I authorize the county to check and verify the facts I provided on this statement of facts. • I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of California that the information in this statement of facts is true, correct, and complete.														
⑦ YOUR SIGNATURE			DATE	SOCIAL WORKER NAME/NUMBER										
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS TO MARK, INTERPRETER OR PERSON ACTING FOR APPLICANT			DATE	CWS PHONE NUMBER										